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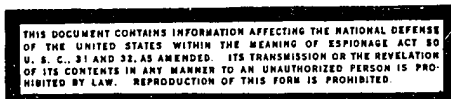
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USSR MAKES CH'ONGJIN STRATEGIC VANGUARD;
NORTH KOREA STUDIES AIR-RAID DEFENSE

USSR LEASES CH'ONGJIN AS "FREE" PORT -- Sopuk Sinmun, 5 Apr 50

Since liberation, the port of Ch'ongjin on the northeastern coast of North Korea is known to have become the main exit from North Korea for the resources exploited by the USSR. Ch'ongjin is also the main entrance into North Korea for the USSR's secret operatives. The USSR recently leased Ch'ongjin as a "free" port.

In 1948, because of its strategic importance, the USSR established naval bases in Ch'ongjin and vicinity. In Ch'ongjin, a commodity-exchange center was created to facilitate the exchange of goods between the USSR and North Korea. In spite of its name, this exchange center is actually for one-way trade to the USSR, and the warehouses in this port are usually full of commodities collected in North Korea for shipment to the USSR. The Korean stevedores loading goods on Soviet-bound ships are under the strict surveillance of North Korean Communists, and are prohibited from leaving the docks. Outsiders are not allowed to approach the piers. Four or five Soviet transport vessels ranging from 1,000 to 3,000 tons in size can be seen every day in this port, loading rice and other staple commodities taken from the North Koreans without compensation.

What is known as a "Partisan Unit Liaison Post" is located on the hill overlooking the port. The "Partisan" combat officers are posted here to conduct liaison work with the North Korean People's Army. Numerous political indoctrination centers are also located here. Thus, Ch'ongjin is the economic, political, and military vanguard of the USSR.

NORTH KOREA TO BUILD AIR-RAID SHELTERS -- Sopuk Sinmun, 5 Apr 50

A strick order was issued jointly by National Defense Minister Ch'oe Yong-kun and Home Affairs Minister Pak Il-u of the People's Republic on 12 December 1949, to construct air-raid shelters throughout North Korea. Instructions

- 1 -

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were issued to the cells of the North Korean Labor Party to conduct inspections of the shelters and make studies of defense against air raids.

The change in the situation thus forced the People's Republic to reverse its policy of branding as pro-Japanese reactionaries those who had actively participated in the civilian air-defense activities imposed by the Japanese imperialists during the war. By virtue of their experiences in this field, these "reactionaries" are now asked by the puppet government to "confess" their past "crimes" of helping the Japanese. After the "confession," they are acquitted and assigned to responsible air defense posts by the puppet government.

SOLDIERS ROB VILLAGERS TO SUPPLEMENT SUBSISTENCE -- Sopak Sinmun, 5 Apr 50

It is reported that soldiers of the People's Army and members of the Peace-Preservation Corps assigned to the 38th Parallel battle front have been breaking into houses and committing armed robberies to supplement their below-standard subsistence provided by the puppet government.

The armed robberies are committed mainly at night in the villages where they are stationed, and the housebreaking during the day when villagers are out for compulsory labor or are absent from their homes. Until recently, these soldiers preyed on the refugees crossing the parallel to the South by confiscating their belongings, but as the number of the refugees diminished, the soldiers turned their eyes on the village residents.

Their crimes extend to stealing and killing farmers' livestock and destructive violence. The victims are completely helpless, as the puppet authorities simply ignore them.

USSR HOLDS KOREAN HOSTAGES TO PREVENT TITOISM -- Sopak Sinmun, 5 Apr 50

Many second-generation Koreans born in the USSR are holding responsible posts in the puppet government of North Korea. It is reported that the families of these Koreans are held in the USSR as hostages as a precaution against Titoist tendencies on the part of their relatives.

FATHER-SON CORRUPTION TEAM IN PUPPET REGIME -- Sopak Sinmun, 5 Apr 50

It is reported that the cabinet members of the North Korean puppet government have been enriching themselves through corruption, embezzlement, and deception of the people. The private wealth of Ch'oe Yong-kun, Minister of National Defense, and Pak Il-u, Minister of Home Affairs, which they gained through bribery, etc., is as much as 300 million won and 200 million won, respectively.

Ch'oe has three "wives." His common-law wife lives separately in Yongch'on, P'yongan Pukto. He now lives with his second wife, a Chinese woman. His third wife, a Kisaeng (girl entertainer), lives in P'yongyang.

His 30-year-old son, who was born to his original wife, is a hotel broker by trade, but actually is an underground racketeer who also has accumulated considerable wealth through dealing in opium, which he reportedly shipped to South Korea for destructive purposes. Both the father and son have worked hand in hand to accumulate wealth by taking advantage of the former's official position and influence.

- 2 -

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Pak, who prides himself on being Russian-born, was once content with a modest life. But after he became Minister of Home Affairs, he apparently was influenced by the corrupt puppet regime and began acquiring wealth through abuse of his authority.

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- 3 -

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